

City of Newport, Kentucky 2018 Annual Report

City of Newport, Kentucky, 998 Monmouth Street, Newport, KY 41071 www.newportky.gov · 859-292-3687



City of Newport Board of Commissioners Jerry R. Peluso

Tom Guidugli, Jr. Vice Mayor

> Frank Peluso Commissioner

Mayor

Beth Fennell Commissioner

Ken Rechtin Commissioner

State of the City, 2019

By Thomas J. Fromme

As we head into the new year, we pause to reflect on the success of the past, goals for the next year, and to strategize about the challenges ahead. In 2018 we celebrated numerous ground breakings and ribbon cuttings in all the various business districts in the City. Corporex announced that the Ovation project would soon be breaking ground after many years. The long awaited, multi- year, Route 9 project came to completion with the construction of its final phase, opening up a new growth corridor for the City. New Riff opened its west side location in 2018, and the Academy on 4th Residential development broke ground.

On the fiscal side, the City also continued to grow. For the calendar year 2018, the City ended with a General Fund Cash Balance of \$3,425,880, up \$400,000 from 2017. Due to this, the City was able for the first time in over ten years, not to renew the short-term tax anticipation note (TAN), and to establish a reserve fund. Our 2018-2019 budget reflected success with revenues surpassing budgeted projections. Over the last four years, the City's net payroll revenues have grown over \$1,000,000. In 2018 the City gained a net 40 new companies doing business in the City, with 124 net new employees.

Business growth in the City continues to increase, which is critical since we rely on payroll as our primary source of revenue, accounting for approximately 35% of all revenue. Our largest or fastest growing businesses are PL Marketing, Kroger, Defender Direct, Divisions, Inc., Impact Sales, St. Elizabeth, DJ Joseph Co., National Band and Tag Co. Inc., I-Wireless and Nexigen Communications.

Ribbon Cuttings for Crunch Fitness in the Newport Shopping Center and The Baker's Table on Monmouth Street







Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and City

Management

While great things are happening in the City, we also face challenges in this new year. Increased costs related to personnel, specifically, crippling increases in pension costs dictated by the state are expected to increase by \$1.6 million over the next few years.

Due to the mandated pension increase and other rising costs, we are looking at ways to maintain an adequate level of service in the future within the constraints of our revenue. Perhaps the most difficult challenge for Newport and for surrounding cities is addressing the delivery of public services to our residents. We continue to operate with a very small efficient staff and make every effort to provide a high quality of service in a cost-effective manner (having reduced City staffing by nearly 30 employees in

recent years). Currently we have approximately 115 full time employees, with more than 80 in public safety.

The City has continued to invest in its aging infrastructure and equipment, however aging infrastructure and rising costs continue to be a challenge. During the next few years, we anticipate spending several million dollars on infrastructure related projects and equipment acquisition, including upgrades to the 800 MHz radio system used for public safety. The 2018-2019 Budget and work priorities include a focus on capital improvements, including expending the funds from the 2015 Bond Issuance for several major ongoing projects.

Much was accomplished in 2018, and 2019 continues to look very promising. Construction on Ovation and changes at Newport on the Levee will kick off the year with a flourish. Construction on Carothers Road and design work on the South Monmouth street (US 27) will commence this year, including a partnership with surrounding cities on smart corridor initiatives. We will continue with our City-wide street repaving program and paver replacement and streetscape improvements on Monmouth Street. Bernadette Watkins Park in the West Side will continue to be developed.

Our goals for 2019 continue to include: further redevelopment of residential and commercial properties; working on quality of life issues - such as parks and recreation; and maintaining a safe walkable community. From a fiscal perspective, we continue working on growing revenues and keeping our expenses reasonable.

The goals for 2019 are listed in their entirety in this Annual Report and metrics can be found on our online transparency portal at https://newportky.opengov.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Fromme City Manager

2018 Accomplishments

General Government and Administration

- Negotiated three union contracts.
- Implemented OpenGov's Checkbook reporting for access by the Board of Commissioners.
- Completed Pension Analysis and Projections.
- Completed FY 2019 Budget book for inclusion onto the website.
- Rental Dwelling License renewal period was converted from fiscal to calendar year. Completed both a half year billing (Jul'18-Dec'18) and a full year billing (Jan'19-Dec'19) with little complication.
- City of Newport: Implemented the following Springbrook module: Payroll.
- Campbell County Consolidated Dispatch: Implemented the Payroll Springbrook module.
- Began implementing Credit Card payments, starting in the Police Department.
- Established and set the 2018 Property Tax Rate.
- Part-Time Clerk hired (Business License Auditor).
- Raised the profile of the City through social media and other events/outlets. Facebook page likes up to 1,759 (from 1,188 likes last year). Successfully implemented use of Facebook Jobs application process for job openings. Implemented Facebook Live for Commission meetings.

Public Safety: Police

- Visa, Master Card partnership to share technology to process debit in the collection as related to parking infractions.
- Secured Homeland Security grant for the purchase of digital 800 MHz radio system.
- Updated the IDENT Office.
- Implementation of property/evidence tracking system for efficiency and integrity purpose.
- Secured/ acquired grant funding to purchase patrol rifles for patrol officers.
- Secured/ acquired National Traffic Highway Safety grant.
- Rise in projected parking meter collection due to increased effectiveness of parking enforcement.
- Police Swat Team partnered with KTOA organization for additional specialized training.
- Organized NKY's largest mock active shooter training with local agencies such as St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Newport Fire, Campbell County Coroner, and Campbell County EMA.
- Assigned an officer to the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.



2018 Accomplishments (continued)

Public Safety: Fire

- Participated in the mock active shooter drill at Newport Central Catholic High School with Newport Police Department and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.
- Submitted FEMA grants for a replacement ambulance, a replacement engine, radio equipment, vehicle exhaust system, ambulance automatic cots systems, cardiac defibrillator monitors, thermal imaging cameras.
- Replaced current 20-year-old data management and reporting system with a more up to date and more user-friendly software system.
- Placed into service replacement Captain/Shift Commander vehicle.
- Worked on several committees on the 800 radio program.
- Placed into service new CPR device for two ambulances.
- Ordered replacement gear for all out-of-date old gear.
- Training on high-rise buildings with updated high-rise hose systems.
- Worked on better cancer prevention techniques for our employees.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Completed engineering for catch basin at 1328 Waterworks Road.
- Designed and submitted plans to repair a slide on the floodwall east of Washington Street Pump Station.
- Managed communications with the USACE on various Levee related projects: Aqua Storm Sewer, Route 9 Closure, Riverwalk Phase III, Skywheel, Ovation, slide at Washington Street Pump Station, Riverboat Row CSO, etc.
- Constructed a head wall at 18th Street diversion.



Aqua on the Levee Storm Sewer Project

- Designed and installed an electric panel at the Taylor Creek Overflow.
- Removed over 45 infected Ash trees including their stumps in Phase 1 of a tree maintenance plan.
- Replaced failed brick sidewalk pavers in the 1000 block of Monmouth Street with stamped concrete to simulate bricks.
- Extended a storm sewer in Hoyer Alley to address a water issue and paved a portion of the alley.
- Dillon Carson and Anthony Guidugli achieved their Road Scholar endorsement through the Kentucky technology program.

2018 Accomplishments (continued)

Infrastructure and Maintenance (continued)

- Completed the planning and bid out the paving of several streets and the construction of East 9th Street and Wildcat Drive.
- Continued work toward city's tree canopy goal: updated tree ordinance, supported volunteer planting projects.
- Replaced parking lot lights with LED and painted poles.
- Riverfront Commons III Bridges Grant (Submitted Plans to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).
- Carothers Phase II design.
- Route 9 construction.
- Began implementation of Bernadette Watkins Park.
- Designed and approved interlocal agreement with SD1 for 9th Street Strom Sewer repairs.

Community and Economic Development

- Worked Development Projects (meet with prospects, state and federal agencies, reviewing proformas, researching financing, recruiting developers, event facilitation, etc):
 - Newport on the Levee Acquisition / Future Planning
 - Academy on Fourth
 - Skywheel
 - Pegasus
 - o 401 Park Avenue
 - Fedders Construction
 - B&B Riverboats Expansion
 - 13th Street Development
 - KTCHN
 - Monmouth Street Sites
 - Ovation
 - Peace Bell Site
 - Newport Steet/IPSCO
 - Former Baptist Home
 - Other confidential sites



Space activation at Newport on the Levee

- Engaged with approx. 20 businesses related to expansion, engagement and retention.
- Presented 6 JDIP applications to the Committee and City Manager.
- Facilitated the introduction of Gest and Oggo into the City.
- Continued to navigate the Federal Requirements related to US Smelted Steel and the implementation of the Red Bike Project.

2018 Accomplishments (continued)

Community and Economic Development (continued)

- Worked with Neighborhood Foundations and DLG on approvals for Bernadette Watkins Park.
- Held a community engagement event for Bernadette Watkins Park.
- Applied for KaBOOM Grant and FC Cincinnati funds for Bernadette Watkins Park.
- Facilitated transfer of Landfill from Port Authority, managed repair to cap, began redevelopment investigations.
- Four façade Improvement Program Projects closed out, eleven in pipeline.

Code Enforcement

- Restructure of the Staff organization eliminating the Development Services Department, creating the Code Enforcement Department. Division of responsibilities of the Development Services director between the newly created position of Code Enforcement Director and the Assistant City Manager.
- Hired staff for 1 vacant Code Enforcement Officer Position and a Historic Preservation Specialist.
- Began the process of a comprehensive review of the City's zoning code and historic preservation guidelines.
- Collected \$68,587.25 in delinquent taxes through payment agreement and reduced outstanding tax amounts due to the City by \$184,234.40.
- Collected \$31,850.00 in code liens
- Manage 87 active foreclosure cases in which the City is a party and 45 other foreclosures have been closed.



New Riff Distilling - West Newport Campus

Key Metrics, 2015-2018

General Government	2015	2016	2017	2018
Worker Compensation Claims	22	22	14	13
Injury Days Lost – "Days Away"	12	71	72	241
Sick Time Utilized	5,198 hours	6,372 hours	7,054 hours	7,903 hours

Personnel Summary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-2019
City Manager's Office				
Total City Manager's Office Full Time	4	5	6	6
Total Part Time	8	8	6	5
Finance and Administration				
Total Full Time	6	6	6	6
Total Part Time	0	1	1	1
Police				
Total Full Time	46	45	46	44
Total Part Time	5	5	5	6
Fire				
Total Full Time	38	38	38	38
Total Part Time	0	0	0	0
Development Services				
Total Full Time	4	6	7	5
Total Part Time	1	1	3	3
Community Services				
Total Full Time	14	15	15	15
Total Part Time	19	19	21	23
TOTAL FULL TIME	112	115	118	114
TOTAL PART TIME	33	33	36	38
TOTAL EMPLOYEES	145	148	154	152

Business Information	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Companies	55	56	60	71
Lost Companies	15	31	69	31
New Employees	321	325	163	208
Lost Employees	66	235	121	84
Net Payroll	\$6,019,821	\$ 6,390,544	\$6,668,365	\$7,162,397

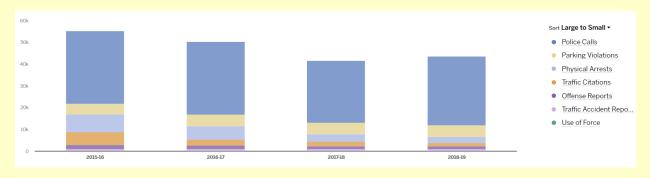
Capital Equipm	ent						
Purchased 2015	Cost	Purchased 2016	Cost	Purchased 2017	Cost	Purchased 2018	Cost
2 Dump Beds	\$35,790	Horton Medic Unit	\$27,500	Hot Box	\$33,133	Springbrook Software	\$36,042
Horton Medic Unit	\$157,000	Explorer Fire Chief	\$37,234	Utility Box Truck	\$44,093	3 Dodge Chargers	\$91,244
F550 Super Duty - PW	\$70,750	3 Dodge Chargers	\$92,289	Ford Escape	\$24,550	2 Ford Explorers	\$68,536
F250 Super Duty - Code	\$25,000	Pierce Fire Engine	\$500,000	3 Dodge Chargers	\$83,277	1 Jeep Cherokee/ 1 Grand Cherokee	\$55,786
6 Dodge Chargers	\$155,431	3 Dodge Chargers	\$74,871	Ford Transit Van	\$21,574	Vet's Pool Lighting Replacements	\$39,925
Street Sweeper	\$253,750	Body Cameras	\$28,383	Springbrook Software	\$35,537	Springbrook Software	\$36,042
Park Shelter	\$ 5,481	Equipment	\$77,445				
Pool Structure Rehab	\$3,434	Fire SCBA Equip	\$150,686				
Forensic Equipment	\$ 29,542						
Life Packs	\$29,323						
Total:	\$765,502	Total:	\$ 998,409	Total:	\$242,164	Total:	\$327,575

Public Works	2015	2016	2017	2018
Street Miles Paved	3.5	1.6	1.4	0
Tons of Asphalt	446.4	389.7	164	92
Potholes filled	4,464	3,897	1,640	920
Handicap access ramps	22	13	12	10
Trees removed	12	38	26	58
Trees planted	130	212	28	71
Salt tons used	822	810	200	1,177
Overtime for snow removal	76	430	134.5	534.5
Days streets swept	158	160	161	168
Pool Attendance	8,166	9,151	6,740	6,157
Field use / Permits *Actual Permits (versus Users)	82	87	742*	396*
Signs replaced/installed	115	178	123	150
Crosswalks striped	24	16	22	22
Street lights replaced	252	750	600	19

Police	2015	2016	2017	2018
Police calls	33,367	33,269	28,424	31,632
Traffic citations	5,915	2,811	2,149	1,610
Physical arrests	8,060	6,116	3,450	2,646
Traffic accident reports	1,202	1,165	1,163	1,169
Offense reports	1,716	1,513	1,166	1,208
Use of force	16	12	15	15
Parking Violations	4,946	5,430	5,319	5,431
Parking meter collections	\$212,581	\$234,174	\$214,992	\$221,126

Fire	2015	2016	2017	2018
Paramedic calls	3,702	3,592	3,710	3,245
Fire calls	1,642	1,643	1,636	1,712
Inspections	673	678	573	675

Code Enforcement	2015	2016	2017	2018
Code Enforcement citations	197	620	555	1,339
Code inspections	1,608	3,048	2,707	3,621
Condemnations	21	18	19	16
Residential permits	371	539	463	508
Residential Construction Cost	\$3,971,533	\$5,914,259	\$5,409,907	\$1,0285,311
Residential Permit Fees	\$43,217	\$61,954	\$48,939	\$64,522
Commercial permits	213	139	159	166
Commercial Construction Cost	\$10,691,550	\$5,568,938	\$8,376,022	\$34,922,106
Commercial Permit Fees	\$102,577	\$33,161	\$35,765	\$101,127
Complaints	640	1,920	1440	1506
Number of Code Officers	1	3	2.5	3.5
Historic Preservation COA's issued	239	230	296	361



Infrastructure Improvements							
2015		2016		2017		2018	
Street Resurfacing	\$735,202	Street Resurfacing	\$704,123	Street Resurfacing	\$294,641	Street Resurfacing	\$262,012
SRTS	\$27,140	SRTS	\$7,140.00	Curb & Ramp Replacements	1160 curbs 14 ramps	Watch Hill Curbs	\$56,918
Underground Utilities	\$ 40,000	Grandview Slide	\$ 8,374	Grandview Ave	\$400,571	Grandview Ave	\$315,770
Curbs	\$ 29,531	Churchill	\$ 63,710	Watch Hill /Curbs	\$64,887	Wildcat Dr.	\$19,735
Riverwalk	\$ 98,103	Riverwalk	\$9,576.37	Riverfront Commons II / Sidewalks	\$213,189	Project 1620 Roundabouts	\$11,892
PW Building	\$1,067,231	Riverfront Commons	\$ 322,293	Riverfront Commons III / Bridges	\$53,772	Carothers Rd.	\$30,428
Dayton St Parking Lot	\$ 120,761	Barrel Vaults	\$ 130,440	Mast Art Replacement	\$193,934	Rt. 9 Underground Utilities	\$500,000
Storm Sewer / Stadium	\$ 19,340	Sewer	\$ 46,640	Sewer Relocation	\$472,354	Duke Energy (LED Streetlights)	\$372,011
Floodwall	\$ 70,535	Floodwall	\$ 26,010	Slide Repairs / Floodwall	\$24,580	Parking Lot LED Lights	\$47,000
Slide Repairs	\$119,273	Slide Repairs	\$ 36,521	Pool Lights	\$39,925	Mast Arm Poles	\$82,352
Salt Shed	\$ 14,104	Wein- gartner	\$ 15,090	LED Lighting	\$104,659	Riverfront Commons II	\$41,052
Carothers	\$ 216,603	Carothers	\$ 2,302	Carothers Rd	\$79,757	Riverfront Commons III	\$36,295
				Roundabout Design	\$43,365	Slide Repairs/ Floodwall	\$21,700
				Monmouth Street Improvements	\$301,855		
				Taylor Creek Improvements	\$28,400		
Total:	\$2,557,825	Total:	\$1,372,220	Total:	\$2,315,889	Total:	\$1,797,165

2019 Goals

General Government and Administration

- Continue to strengthen the City's reserves.
- OpenGov: Add Annual Report, Fire and Police Data. Automate data uploads for more timely reports.
- Continue to investigate ways to incorporate technology into city government functions.
- Update Website, continue promotions of events, grow Facebook "Friends".
- Issue a Bond for capital improvements which would include South Monmouth / Underpass.
- Investigate and assess Springbrook 'Extended Budgeting' module.
- Completion of FY 2019 Audit.
- Completion of FY 2020 Budget Book.
- Refine rental license process; improve payments, recovery and enforcement.
- Create a Special Events Permit for movie and film production.
- Setup 'WRAPS' portal for City & CCCDB to submit KY income Tax electronically.
- Continue to implement credit card usage for payments to City.
- Work with Department heads to monitor City Budget.
- Establish and set 2019 Property Tax Rate.
- Review and update Personnel Policy Handbook.
- Review and Update the Job Descriptions and Classification Plan.
- Schedule Quarterly EAP Training Seminars.
- Review and update Communications Listing with Departments.
- Review of parking issues.
- Review of alcohol sales licensing.
- Review of tree and sidewalk ordinances.

Public Safety: Police

- Implement an E-Bike Patrol Program to complement our current bicycle patrol, which would assist in a better equipped and better mobilized police force.
- Purchase additional Wolfcom Vision body cameras to replace aging/ defective current units to remain integrated with future technology.
- Update Policy and Procedure manual to current accreditation standards.
- Prepare for upcoming state accreditation process/ renewal.
- Implement infrastructure plan for accreditation compliance in regard to holding cells/ booking station.
- Implementation of digital 800 MHz radio system.
- Update/ maintenance to Records Section Office.
- Update/ maintenance to firearms training facility/firing range.
- Transition to firearm lighting system/corresponding holster.
- Purchase additional vehicles to replace liquidated vehicles/ equipment.
- Explore options for possible purchase of stationary speed monitoring devices.

2019 Goals (continued)

Public Safety: Fire

- Install exhaust system in the fire station to remove diesel fumes.
- Install automatic cot loading systems on both ambulances to reduce chances of injuries.
- Make sure the department is well trained on the use of the new 800 radios system before the start date.
- Order and place into service replacement ambulance to replace 2004 unit.
- Continue training and full implementation of replacement software equipment.
- Renew efforts on building preplanning with electronic storage for Newport buildings.
- Get new officers and engineers special assignments to assist with the overall operation of the department.
- Get more involved with the county fire investigation team.
- Maintain use of aging fire engines.
- Survey abandoned and condemned structures for risk assessment reference interior firefighting.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Continue implementing plan for street / sidewalk repairs, road paving schedule, for the year.
- 9th Street Storm Sewer Improvements.
- Install 20 handicap ramps and replace 2000 feet of curbing.
- Replace two public works trucks with salt spreaders and plows.
- Resurface Veterans Park drive and Parking lot.
- Mussman Park Improvements (fencing, courts, fountain).
- Phase II Carothers Construction.
- Grant Implementation: Riverfront Commons III Bridges Project, Red Bike, South Monmouth/ Underpass.
- Continue to facilitate Levee projects, repair, maintenance and development related.
- Continue Monmouth Street Paver Replacement project.
- Continue administration and maintenance of Veterans Pool.

Community and Economic Development

- Begin process for updating the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.
- Evaluate 4th and 5th Street two way conversion.
- Facilitate redevelopment underway: 4th Street Academy, Peace Bell Site, Skywheel, Ovation, Newport on the Levee, Baptist Home, 13th Street, and along Monmouth Street and New Route 9.
- Implement new Bernadette Watkins Park improvements.
- Continue business retention / outreach.
- Continue Façade Program Implementation.

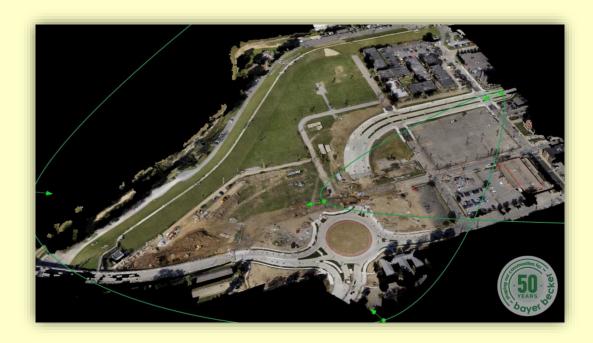
2019 Goals (continued)

Community and Economic Development (continued)

- Install three new Red Bike Stations.
- Partner with neighboring Cities on evaluation of the US 27 Smart Corridor.
- Planning and Zoning Commission engagement and administration.
- Landfill Redevelopment.

Code Enforcement

- Implementation of a new Code Enforcement software program.
- Purchase of a new vehicle for Code Enforcement.
- Streamline process of Code Enforcement lien filing procedure in a manner that is timelier while ensuring compliance with State law.
- Continue the process of zoning code and historic preservation ordinances updates.
- Continue to collect delinquent amounts due to the City.
- Continue to identify vacant properties and take whatever steps needed to bring them into compliance with code and/or aid in redevelopment of the property.
- Continue to work to correct problem properties throughout the City.



Ovation Development Site



City of Newport

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